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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of 47 members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 27 March 2006 from the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly and has the honour to advise that the Government of the Czech Republic has decided to present the candidature of the Czech Republic for election to the Human Rights Council at the election to be held during the sixtieth session of the Assembly on 9 May 2006. The candidature of the Czech Republic to the Human Rights Council constitutes the continuation of its campaign for election to the Commission on Human Rights in the period 2007-2009.

On the basis of its own historical experience, the Czech Republic attaches great importance to the universal promotion, protection and implementation of civil and political rights as well as of cultural, economic and social rights. The promotion and protection of human rights constitutes the basis of the foreign policy of the Czech Republic. Continued attention is paid to regional and universal human rights mechanisms that in an important way complement national mechanisms. During its membership in the Commission on Human Rights in the period 1997-2002, the Czech Republic actively participated in the reinforcement of those principles and would like to continue its work in that field.

The Czech Republic has ratified nearly all major United Nations human rights conventions and optional protocols to those conventions. The Czech Republic has been cooperating in a constructive way with the Treaty Committees supervising the observance of the commitments arising from major human rights conventions of the United Nations. The Czech Republic supports the work of the United Nations Special Procedures and promotes effective cooperation with these mechanisms — it was among the first countries to have extended standing invitations to them.

The Government of the Czech Republic has decided to work for the promotion and protection of human rights during its future membership of the Human Rights Council through the following voluntary commitments:

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- To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- To ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;
- To support the approval of the draft International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance;
- To contribute to the negotiation and early approval of the draft Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.